Creation of new Railway Zones

1411. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to create new zones asnd new Railway Division during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal pending in that regard from different States;

(c) whether Government had a proposal to create a separate railway zone exclusively for Orissa and also to create a new Railway Division at Rourkela; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) A number of proposals had been/are being received for setting up of zones and divisions at various locations including a zone in Orissa and a division at Rourkela.

The Government has decided to set up six zonal railway headquarters at Allahabad, Jabalpur, Bangalore, Hajipur, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar. Eight new Divisions are planned to be set up at Agra, Pune, Singrauli, Rangiya, Guntur, Raipur, Ranchi and Ahmedabad.

Gauge conversion in North and South India

1412. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gauge conversion carried out in North India and South India during the last 4 years and this year;

(b) the gauge conversion proposed for the next five years; and

(c) by when the conversion work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Details are given in the Annexure [See *Appendix* 178, *Annexure* No. 378]

(b) 9th Plan has not yet been finalised.

An Action Plan has been drawn identifying 14,500 Kms. of MG/NG lines for conversion to BG. Out of this, 5533 Kms. have been converted to BG upto 31.03.96. The lines so far included in Action Plan will be completed in the earlier half of the 10th Plan.

Electrification of Delhi-Lucknow Railway Line

1413. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to electrify the Delhi-Lucknow railway line; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the implementation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) There are two routes between Delhi and Lacknow. One of them is via Kanpur and second via Moradabad. Major portion of the first route from Delhi to Kanpur is already electrified. There is however no proposal for electrifying Kanpur-Lucknow, as well as the other route via Moradabad due to constraint of resources.

Laying of foundation stones for new rail Projects

1414. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Minister of Railways had laid foundation stones of 85 new rail projects upto March 1996;